

Enhanced .50 Caliber Machine Gun (E-50)



Mission

Provide increased lethality and survivability on the battlefield over the standard M2 Heavy Barrel Machine Gun by modifying it to make it easier and safer to employ.

Description and Specifications

The **Enhanced .50 Caliber Machine Gun (E-50)** will improve all current and future U.S. Forces' ability to dominate their adversaries in combat. The E-50 will enable warfighters and their units to be more effective by means of faster target engagement due to reduced time in changing the barrel. The system will be maintained and supported similar to the current M2HB machine gun.

The current M2HB machine gun requires the operator to set the headspace and timing with a go/no-go gauge each time a barrel is installed. Improper adjustment of headspace and timing can cause malfunctions, parts damage, or injury. The lack of a Quick Change Barrel (QCB) exposes the Soldier to enemy fire for extended periods of time, with adverse impact on his survivability and mission accomplishment. The ability, therefore, to change barrels quickly and resume firing without resetting the headspace and timing is critical. E-50 will provide an attachable handle to change the barrel without the need for gloves. E-50 will also include a closed bolt system with a manual trigger block safety (not currently on the existing M2HB machine gun) and the ability to quickly change the barrel without resetting headspace and timing each time.

Additional modifications to the M2HB include:

- Flash suppressor to reduce signature to make it night-vision friendly
- Common barrel thread to interchange with existing M2HBs
- Patented three-slot barrel retention system to assure secure barrel locking and alignment
- Picatinny mounting rail for optics

These capabilities will insure that the commander has constant firepower and less downtime.